



### 2011 Military Health Systems Conference

## Wounded Warriors: Challenges and Care Coordination



### Warrior Transition Brigade

LTC Jean Jones Senior Nurse Case Manager

2/3/2012

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### **Warrior Transition Units**

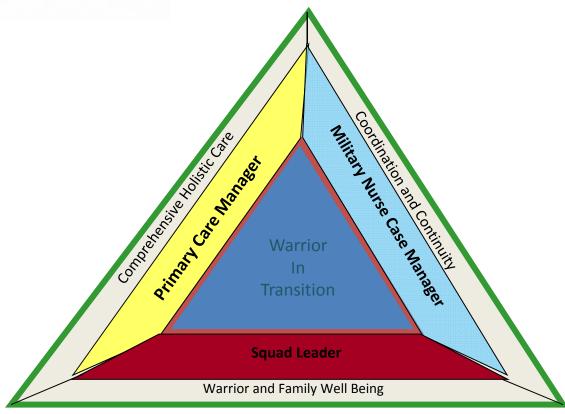
### Mission

- To facilitate the healing and rehabilitation of Soldiers, return them to duty when possible, or to prepare them for a successful life as a veteran in their communities.
- 36 WTUs
- 9 Community Based Warrior Transition Units





### **Triad of Care**



Holistic Care Foundation
Social Work Services, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy,

<u>AW2, Federal Recovery Coordinators,</u>

<u>Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC), and Chaplains</u>





### Nurse Case Manager

- Provide Care Coordination for Warrior and Family.
  - Assistance with navigating the Military Health Care System
  - Appointment management
  - Referral Coordination
  - Risk Assessments
  - Evaluation of Care
  - Advocacy
  - Education
  - Family Integration
  - Communication
  - Expectation Management





## Primary Care Manager

- Provide overall management of medical care activities.
  - Overall medical management of Warrior
  - Coordination with medical specialists
  - Referral Management
  - Referral Coordination
  - Risk Assessments
  - Evaluation of Care
  - Advocacy
  - Education
  - Medical Board Referral
  - Expectation Management





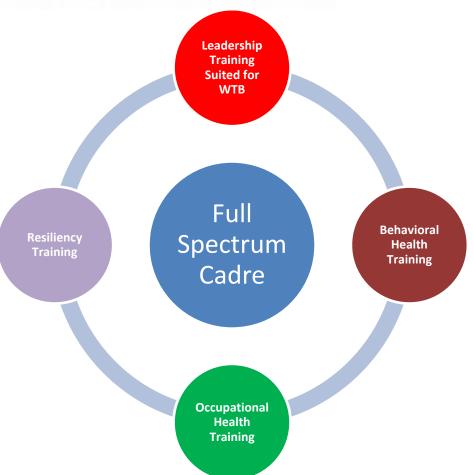
### Squad Leader

- Interfaces daily with Warrior and the Warrior's Nurse Case Manager
- First line supervisor
- Assists Warrior with moving through the Military Health Care System
- Facilitates all administrative issues for the Warrior and Family
- Assists Warrior's Family with integrating into the Warrior Transition Brigade and the Military Health Care System
- Expectation Management





### Full Spectrum Training









# Soldier and Family Assistance Center

- Provide and coordinate various resources and services for Wounded Warriors receiving medical care and their Families.
  - Finance
  - Emergency Financial Assistance
  - ID Cards DEERS
  - Travel Services
  - Military Personnel
  - Lodging
  - TSGLI Assistance
  - Social Service Administration
  - Veterans Briefings and VA Assistance
  - Legal Assistance
  - Sister Service Liaison



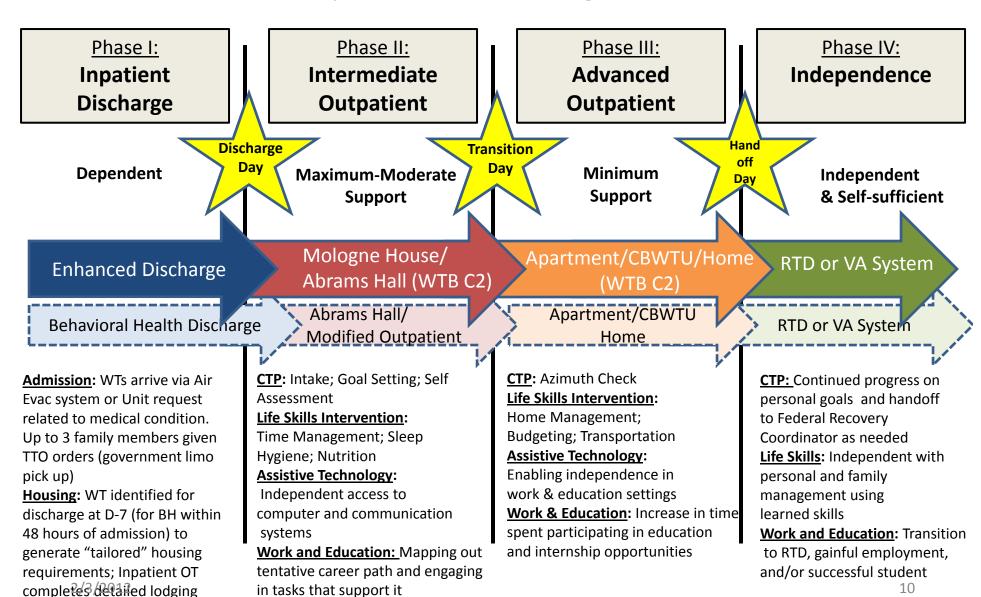


# Army Wounded Warrior Program

- Provides a wide services in order to help Warriors and their Families recover physically, financially, and build their skills for a rewarding life and career either in the military or in the civilian community - "For as long as it takes".
  - Career and Education
  - Finance
  - Healthcare
  - Human Resources
  - Insurance
  - Retirement and Transition
  - Services for Families

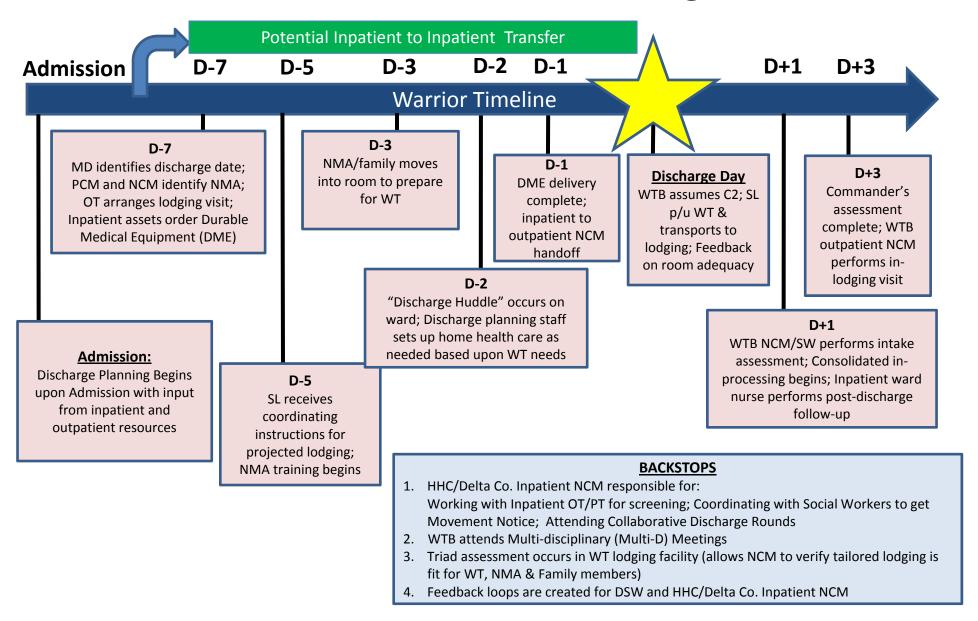


## WTB Warrior Lifecycle "Full Spectrum Discharge Process"

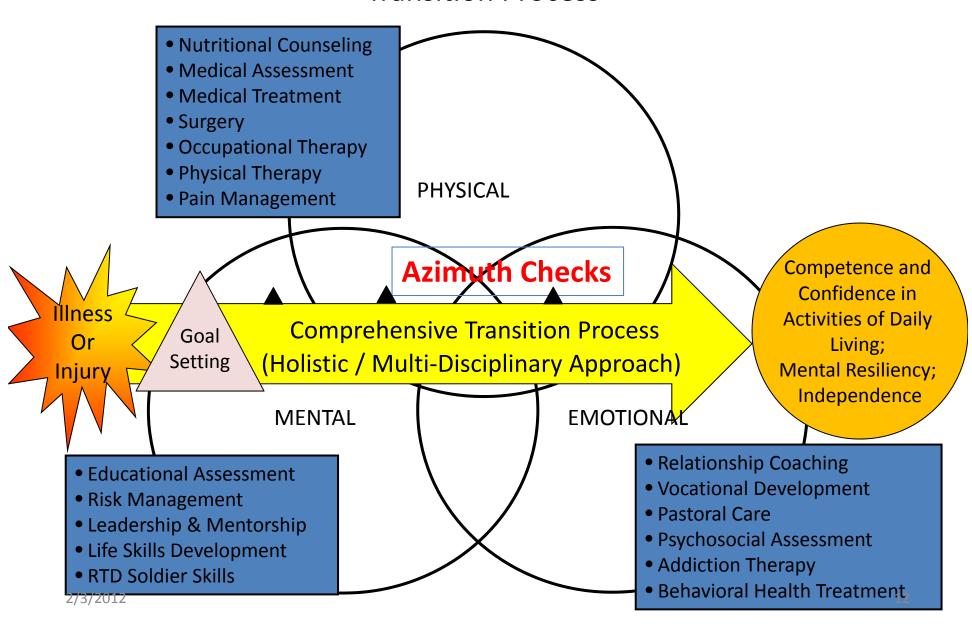


assessment when needed

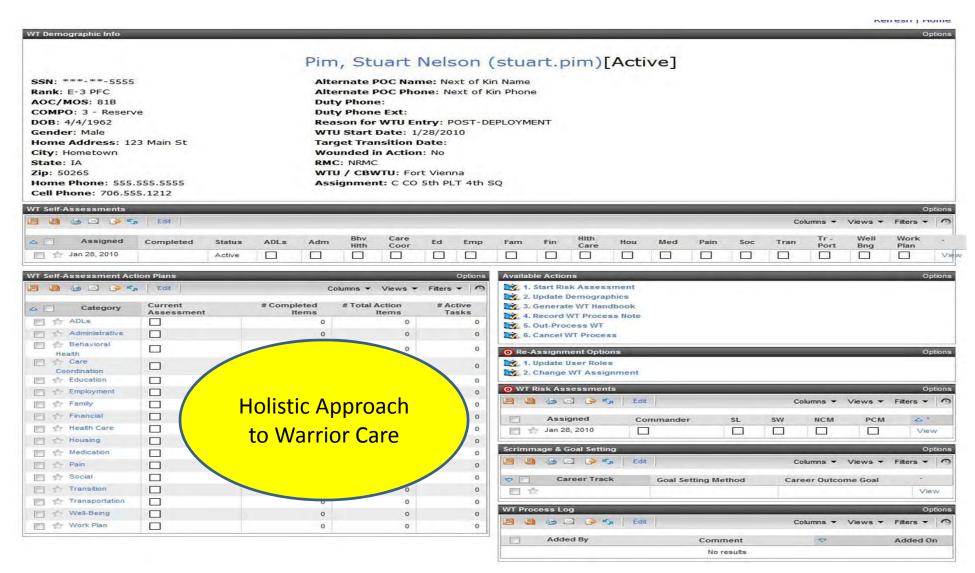
### Best Practice: Enhanced Discharge Process



### Phase II & IV: Intermediate/Advanced Outpatient Comprehensive Transition Process



## Automated Comprehensive Transition Plan





## Occupational Therapy













### Warrior Knowledge Center

This webpage is currently under development and your feedback is important to create a webpage that is useful to all Warriors in Transition, Family and Friends. Thank You Phonebook **CTP** -0-WELCOME CENTER Comprehensive S.O.S. **Welcome Center** Phonebook Transition Plan (CTP) facebook Travel and **Getting Around** Social Networking **Family Support** Locally Transportation Benefits

Health

Appointment Scheduling

MEB / PEB

**Benefits** 



# Families and the Reintegration Process



- Inpatient Family Assessments
- New Warrior and Family Orientation
- Outpatient Care
  - Support Groups
  - WTB Social WorkServices
  - Computer Assisted Therapies





### **Lessons Learned**



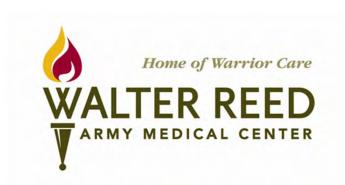
## Warriors and their Family are a SystemExpectation Management

### Warriors

- Reintegration begins upon entry
- It takes a Team
- Multiple options
- Embrace new normal early
- Empowerment is key

### Families

- Provide support early and often
- Create trustenvironment withFamilies
- Children deserve special care
- Listen



### **Warrior Care**



I am a Warrior in Transition

My job is to heal as I transition back to duty or continue serving the nation as a veteran in my community.

This is not a status, but a mission.

I will succeed in this mission because
I AM A WARRIOR AND I AM ARMY STRONG

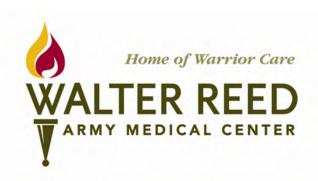
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# Effective Handoffs and Individualized Care Plans

- Warrior Transition Units
- Triad of Care
- Non-Clinical Case Management
  - Squad Leader
  - Company Commander
  - Soldier and Family Assistance Center
  - Army Wounded Warrior Prorgram
  - Federal Recovery Coordinator
- Interface with Clinical Case Management and Primary Care Managers
- Effective Handoffs





## Company Commander

- Provides Command and Control of Warriors
- Responsibilities include:
  - Unit readiness including Warrior safety and Family Re-integration
    - Risk Mitigation
    - Warrior Transition
  - Morale
  - Discipline
  - Physical Fitness





### **Key Handoffs**

- Discharge from Inpatient
  - Lodging
  - Inprocessing finance, order issue, training
  - Family integration, TSGLI
- Outpatient Management
  - MEB / DES process
  - Benefit and Legal Assistance
  - Veteran Administration Benefits
  - Community Resources
  - Work and Education Planning
- Transition to Independence
  - Community Resources
  - Internships
  - Education Programs
  - Housing
  - VA Claims
  - VA Vocational programs







### 2011 Military Health Systems Conference

## Effective Handoffs and Individualized Care Plans

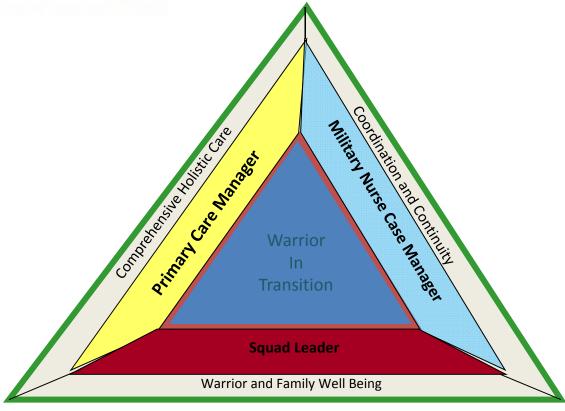


### Warrior Transition Brigade

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### **Triad of Care**



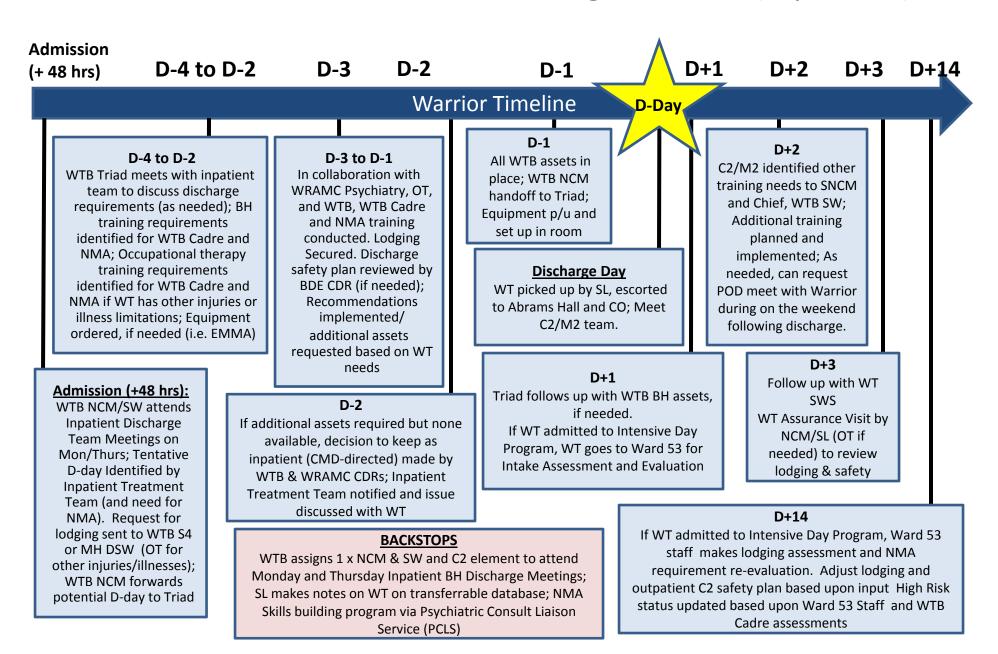
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### Phase I: Behavioral Health Discharge Process (Inpatient)





## Expectation Management It takes a Team...





Companies

**Providers** 

Soldier and Family Assistance Center









## Case Review – S/P IED Blast

- 22 y/o E4 S/P IED blast with the resulting injuries below the knee amputation, pelvic fracture, multiple soft tissue injuries, mild TBI
- Diagnosed with PTSD 6 months after arrival
- Warrior desired to remain on Active Duty
- Supportive family
- Key handoffs
  - Inpatient to outpatient
  - Family
  - Medical Board and the DES
  - Army level Human Resources
  - New Command
  - MTF at new unit

### Case Review — Behavioral Health

- 24 y/o E4 diagnosed with Mood Disorder while attending Advanced Individual Training (AIT). No deployment experience
  - After 2 unsuccessful suicide attempts was admitted to WRAMC's behavioral health inpatient ward.
  - Soon after discharge and return to unit, SM had 2 additional suicide attempts. Readmitted to WRAMC and admitted to WTB.
  - No supportive family located
  - Key Handoffs
    - Inpatient to Outpatient
    - Outpatient Providers
    - Medical Board
    - Community resources in new home location
    - VA

## Case Review – S/P RPG Blast

- 35 y/o CPT S/P RPG Blast with the receiving injuries: Moderate to Severe TBI with cranioplasty, right arm amputation below the elbow (right hand dominate), and multiple soft tissue injuries.
- Dysfunctional family system
- Warrior wants to remain on Active Duty however unknown response to therapy at this time
- Key Handoffs
  - Inpatient to Outpatient
  - Outpatient providers
  - Medical Board
  - VA
  - Legal Assistance
  - Home Community

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Phase II: Intermediate Outpatient



 Warriors and Family Members settled in to "tailored" lodging

• WTB and TRIAD of care assume full C2; HHC Intake element conducts reception, consolidated In-processing, and training within first 30 days, then WTs are moved to "Line" Companies

- Comprehensive Transition Plan (CTP) is initiated to focus on Holistic Care; initial Goal Setting looks at weekly goals. A tentative career path is discussed (and mapped out depending upon Warrior's physical and emotional readiness).
- Warriors and Family Members meet with AW2

### **Warrior Tasks**

- Twice Daily Huddles
- NCM appts weekly
- •NCMs make all appts
- Warriors wear uniform and required to be on post during duty day
- •Warriors are subject to taskings and duty rosters (toward end of Phase II)

### Phase III: Advanced Outpatient

(Minimum Support)

Warriors move to Apartment or Home

**Warrior Timeline** 

Phase Line Alpha

#### LODGING ASSESSMENT

Warriors are assessed to determine need for greater independence

Warriors are moved to alternate lodging facilities to adapt and overcome their disability limitations in "real world" living conditions while still under WTB C2

#### **Warrior Tasks**

- Attend morning huddles and Brigade formations
- NCM appts every 1-2 weeks
- •NCMs enable Warrior to make appts; by end Phase III make own appts
- •Warrior must wear uniform during day while on post for duty day
- •Warrior involved in Work or Education programs

- WTB Triad Boards and Transition Review Boards assess physical/emotional condition and lodging needs for each Warrior. Review readiness of Warrior and family to navigate/plan own care. Reduce mandatory SL and NCM engagement.
- •Goal setting focuses on short term and long term goals. Warrior begins to visualize life after WTB
- Occupational Therapists (OTs) focus on Home Management, Budgeting and Transportation skills; OT facilitates assistive technology to enable independence in work & education settings

### Phase IV: Independence



(Self-Sufficiency)

RTD or Civilian Life

#### **Warrior Timeline**

#### **TRANSITION**

Warriors have achieved "Optimal" level of health that WTB and WRAMC can provide

Warrior has undergone Holistic Healing and is independent - using learned skills in personal and family management

### **Warrior Tasks**

- Warriors attend Brigade formations and call in for accountability
- •NCM appts every 2-3 weeks
- •Warriors make all appts (except referals)

- RTD personnel leave WTB prepared for reintegration in the force
- For non-RTD Warriors, WTB SW/NCM conduct "Warm hand-off" with VA Health Care Liaison to ensure the first VA/VHA appointments are made and pay issues are addressed
- Warriors acquire gainful employment and/or are successful students; E-mail addresses are added to WTB database for follow-on information on career & education fairs